

**DELL**

A MOVIE  
CLASSIC

NO. 910 **10¢**

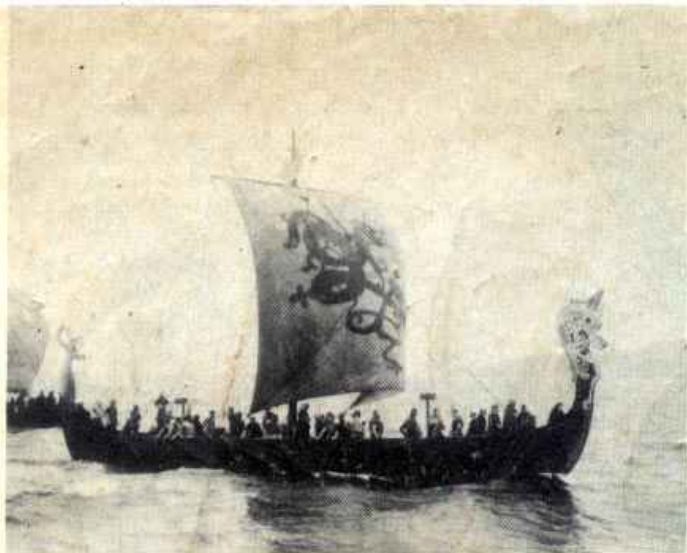
# the *Vikings*



**Eric's dragon ships conquered an empire!**

A Kirk Douglas Production released through United Artists





Vikings sail the northern seas...



to pillage, raid, conquer...



and set brother against brother...



for a nation's wealth...



and the hand of its queen.

**KIRK DOUGLAS**  
**TONY CURTIS-JANET LEIGH**  
**ERNEST BORGNINE**

in

**"THE VIKINGS"**

with

**James Donald • Alexander Knox**

Screen Play by Noel Langley and Calder Willingham

Based on a Novel by Edison Marshall

Produced by Jerry Bresler. Directed by Richard Fleischer

**A Kirk Douglas Production**

Released through United Artists in

**TECHNIRAMA® TECHNICOLOR®**

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# the Vikings

AS THE NORTHLAND SUMMER ENDS, RAGNAR, THE VIKING CHIEFTAIN, LEADS A HUNT ACROSS HIS VAST DOMAINS...



BUT EINAR, RAGNAR'S SON, HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN...





AS THE FALCON RETURNS WITH HER KILL...

FOR TRAINING THAT HAWK, YOU'VE EARNED DEATH BY THE LASH. BUT I'LL BE KIND, ERIC-- I'LL SLAY THE **HAWK** INSTEAD!

NO, YOU CAN'T!



ODIN'S ARROW -- ATTACK!

AGGGG! GET HER OFF ME!



BUT EINAR'S SWORD HAS DONE ITS WORK...

DID YOU **SEE** WHAT THAT HAWK DID? EINAR WILL BE SCARRED FOR LIFE!

QUIET! HERE COMES THE MASTER!



I SAW WHAT HAPPENED. TAKE THE SLAVE BACK TO MY MEAD-HALL. WE'LL SETTLE THIS THERE!

YES, MASTER RAGNAR!



IN THE MEAD-HALL ERIC FACES HIS MASTER DEFIANTLY...

DON'T DENY IT! I SAW YOU THROW THE HAWK INTO EINAR'S FACE! YOU TRIED TO **BLIND** MY SON!

NO, MASTER! I DID NOT THROW THE HAWK. I ORDERED HER TO ATTACK!



NO FALCON COULD BE SO WELL-TRAINED-- UNLESS YOU HAD THE HELP OF YOUR FOSTER MOTHER, KITTI-- **THE LAPLAND WITCH!**

I'VE HELPED ERIC IN MANY THINGS SINCE I RAISED HIM FROM A BABE-- BUT HE TRAINED THE HAWK BY **HIMSELF!**







AS NIGHT FALLS ALONG THE NORTHLAND SHORE...





AS NIGHT FALLS, THE ICY TIDE RISES SWIFTLY...



AS THE VIKING WAR CRY ECHOES...



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, ERIC AND KITTI WORK IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF EGBERT OF NORTHUMBRIA...









THE NEXT DAY, IN EGBERT'S HALL...



ERIC, YOU ARE A FREE MAN NOW! BUT I HAVE GREAT NEED FOR A MAN OF YOUR WIT AND COURAGE.

MY HAND WILL **ALWAYS** BE EAGER TO SERVE YOU, EGBERT!



LISTEN, AND MARK ME WELL. FOR CENTURIES THE NORTHMEN HAVE BEEN RAIDING THE COAST OF EUROPE.

TRUE. EACH YEAR OUR DRAGON SHIPS RETURN LADEN WITH GOLD, SILVER AND GLITTERING JEWELS!



THE VIKINGS RULE A VAST DOMAIN-- IRELAND, ORKNEY AND THE HEBRIDES. EVEN PART OF THE FRANKISH KINGDOM.

AND SOON WE WILL CONQUER **ENGLAND**, TOO! EVERY NORTHMAN DREAMS OF IT!



AYE. AND WHEN RAGNAR LEADS THE VIKING FLEET TO ENGLAND, I WILL RETURN WITH HIM TO CLAIM THE LANDS AND EARLDOM THAT WERE **TAKEN** FROM ME!

YOU ARE AN ENGLISHMAN. HOW COME YOU RUN WITH THE HARE AND THE HOUNDS?



IT IS A LONG STORY. KING AELLA OF NORTHUMBRIA IS A **FALSE KING**! HE TOOK MY LANDS AND EXILED ME BECAUSE I DEFIED HIM.

RAGNAR MAY NOT GIVE YOU BACK YOUR LANDS. HE MAY TURN THEM OVER TO HIS SONS!



TRUE. BUT THE NORTH-UMBRIANS HATE RAGNAR! AND WHEN THEY **REVOLT**, I'LL BE THERE TO LEAD THEM!

I SEE. AND WHY DO THE NORTHUMBRIANS HATE RAGNAR SO?





THE MONTHS PASS SWIFTLY. AT THE EASTER FEAST, THE UNTRIED YOUNG NORTHMEN GATHER FOR THEIR FIRST TEST AS VIKINGS...



BUT AS ERIC RACES THROUGH THE GAUNTLET...





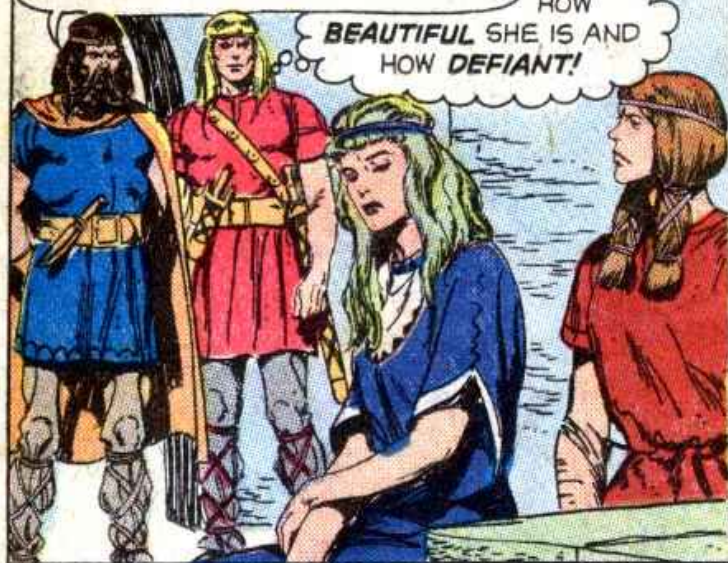




SOON AFTERWARD, IN RAGNAR'S HALL...

THERE SHE IS--THE PRINCESS MORGANA. THE MAID BESIDE HER IS HER COMPANION, BERTHA. WE WILL BEGIN THE QUESTIONING AT ONCE!

HOW  
BEAUTIFUL SHE IS AND  
HOW DEFIANT!



HOW MUCH  
WOULD AELLA  
PAY FOR HIS  
STOLEN  
BRIDE?

AELLA WOULD PAY **NOTHING**  
TO THE SON OF RAGNAR--THE  
VIKING WHO LOOTED AND  
BURNED ALL NORTHUMBRIA!



ENOUGH OF THIS SENSELESS  
YAMMERING IN THAT ENGLISH TONGUE.  
IF NO ONE WILL RANSOM HER, THEN I  
WILL MARRY HER MYSELF-- THIS  
NEXT MID-SUMMER EVE!

I THINK  
SHE'D RATHER  
MARRY A  
**BEAST OF THE  
FIELD!**



AS THE QUESTIONING BEGINS...

MORGANA,  
EINAR WANTS  
TO KNOW WHAT  
YOUR FATHER  
WOULD PAY FOR  
YOUR SAFE  
RETURN!

MY FATHER  
SENT ME TO AELLA  
WITH A GOOD DOWRY.  
EINAR HAS **STOLEN**  
THAT MONEY. MY  
FATHER HAS **NO**  
**MORE LEFT TO PAY**  
MY RANSOM!



AND YOU--YOU WHO SPEAK  
OUR ENGLISH TONGUE! ARE  
YOU ONE OF **THEM**--THOSE  
**THIEVES AND MURDERERS?**

MORGANA--I WOULD  
**HELP** YOU ESCAPE  
IF I COULD! BUT IT  
WOULD BE HOPELESS.



ERIC, YOU'VE TRIED TO HELP  
ME. I HAVE NO GOLD TO REPAY  
YOU, BUT IT IS OUR ROYAL CUSTOM  
TO REWARD WITH  
A **KISS!**

NO MAN COULD  
ASK A **GREATER**  
REWARD, MOR-  
GANA OF WALES!







EINAR UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH!



GOOD NIGHT TO YOU, ERIC, AND THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

HE'S USING THE PRINCESS TO BAIT ME INTO A TRAP! BUT WE SHALL SEE WHO IS TRICKED!

LATER, OUTSIDE KITTI'S HUT...



KITTI, I'M GOING TO HELP MORGANA ESCAPE AND GET BACK TO ENGLAND!

THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AS AN EXILE IN A FOREIGN LAND!



WHAT HAPPENS TO ME DOES NOT MATTER. EINAR MUST **NOT** HAVE THAT LUGGER MOORED TO THE WHARF? BUT YOU'LL NEED AT LEAST A CREW OF FOUR TO HANDLE HER!

WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL! KITTI, HELP ME FIND A BOAT!



KITTI, YOU AND I CAN EACH TAKE AN OAR, IF YOU WILL COME WITH ME.

I WILL COME. AND I WILL BRING MY NEPHEW, KUOLA. HE AND OTHERS OF MY PEOPLE ARE HERE ON A TRADING VISIT!



WE'LL NEED ONE MORE HAND AT THE OARS!

I KNOW THE MAN--AN ENGLISH SLAVE OF RAGNAR'S--SANDPIPER. I HAVE OFTEN BEFRIENDED HIM AND I KNOW HE WILL HELP ME NOW!









WE MUST GO **NOW!**

THEN COME! THE BOAT IS WAITING!

**S**ECONDS LATER, THE CHALLENGE OF A VIKING WARRIOR RESOUNDS ACROSS THE BAY...



ODIN!  
ODIN!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! **SOUND THE ALARM!**

**T**HE NEXT DAY, EINAR'S SHIPS SCOUR THE COAST...



EINAR'S DRAGON SHIP AGAIN! THEY ARE AS SWIFT AS **GREYHOUNDS!**

AYE! BUT THEY'VE GOT TO **SEE US** BEFORE THEY **CATCH US!**

**S**OON AFTERWARD...



THEY HAVEN'T MISSED US YET!

A PITY. I SHOULD WAKEN THEM FOR THE OCCASION!



MORGANA HAS ESCAPED! SOMEONE SAW A BOAT HEADING DOWN THE BAY!

CALL MY FATHER'S THANES! WE PUT TO SEA **AT ONCE!**



**F**OR WEEKS, THE DEADLY GAME OF HARE AND HOUNDS GOES ON!

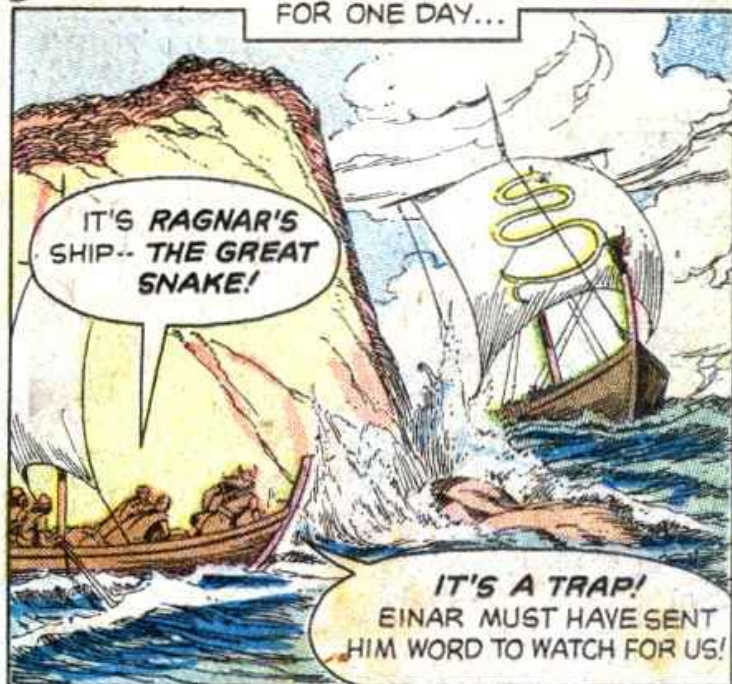




ERIC, YOU'RE RISKING SO MUCH. MY BETROTHED, AELLA, WILL BE GRATEFUL!

I'M **NOT** DOING THIS FOR AELLA! SAVE YOUR GRATITUDE UNTIL THE END OF THE JOURNEY!

BUT DANGER LURKS BEHIND EVERY HEADLAND, FOR ONE DAY...

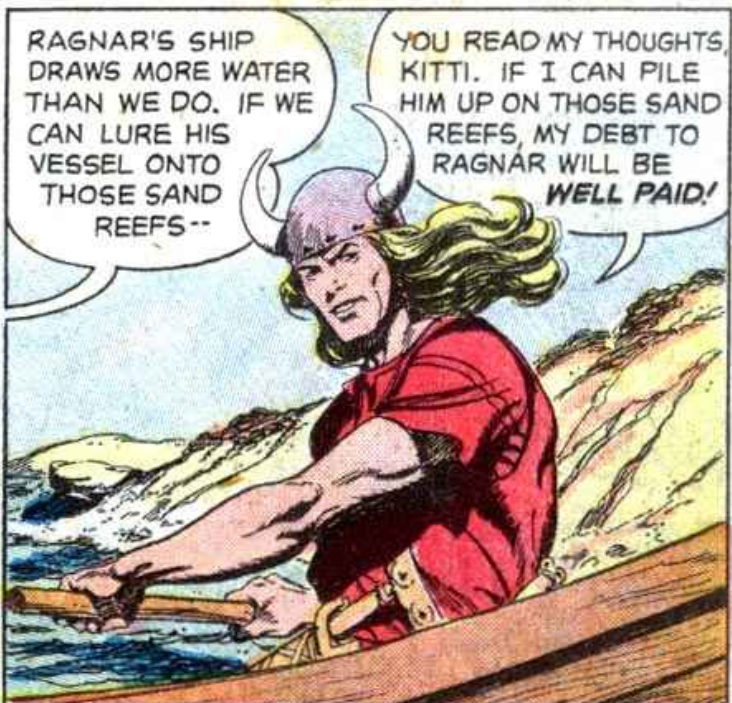


IT'S **RAGNAR'S** SHIP-- **THE GREAT SNAKE!**

**IT'S A TRAP!**  
EINAR MUST HAVE SENT HIM WORD TO WATCH FOR US!

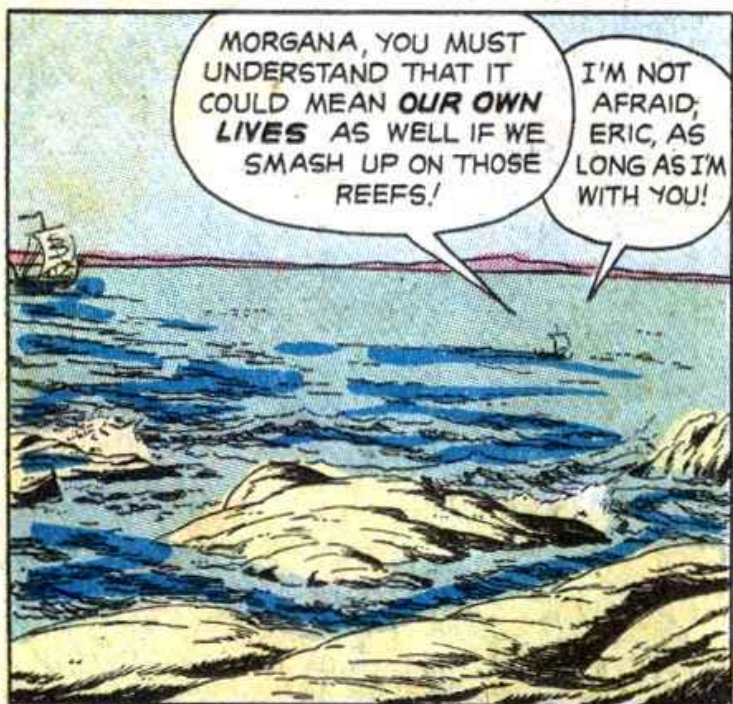


BE CAREFUL, ERIC! THESE CHARTS SHOW **SHALLOW** WATER AND **SAND BARS** NEARBY!



RAGNAR'S SHIP DRAWS MORE WATER THAN WE DO. IF WE CAN LURE HIS VESSEL ONTO THOSE SAND REEFS--

YOU READ MY THOUGHTS, KITTI. IF I CAN PILE HIM UP ON THOSE SAND REEFS, MY DEBT TO RAGNAR WILL BE **WELL PAID!**



MORGANA, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IT COULD MEAN **OUR OWN LIVES** AS WELL IF WE SMASH UP ON THOSE REEFS!

I'M NOT AFRAID, ERIC, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU!



**S**UDDENLY...

LOOK, RAGNAR! THEIR SAIL BROKE LOOSE. WE'VE **GOT THEM** NOW!

SO, THE SLAVE WANTS TO TURN SEA ROVER, EH? SOON MY SWORD WILL BE AT HIS THROAT!



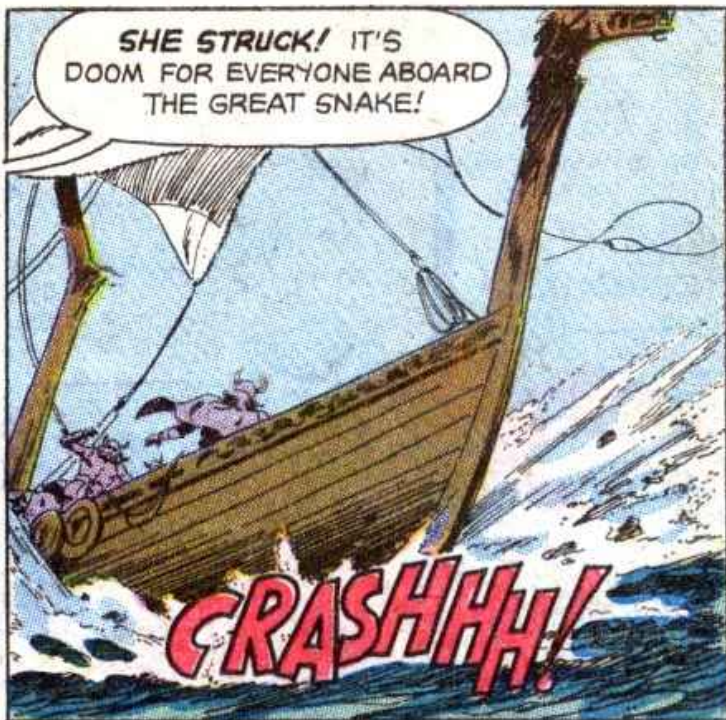
**B**UT THE FLAPPING SAIL WAS ONLY A TRICK TO LURE THE SEA-DRAGON ON, AND...

**IT WORKED!** HE'S TRYING SO HARD TO CATCH US THAT HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S HEADING INTO SHOAL WATERS!

WE'RE PASSING OVER THE SAND REEF NOW! IN ANOTHER SECOND--



**SHE STRUCK!** IT'S DOOM FOR EVERYONE ABOARD THE GREAT SNAKE!



**CRASHHHH!**

**W**ITHIN MINUTES, THE SEA SWALLOWS THE CREW OF THE WRECKED SHIP... BUT ONE MAN REMAINS ALIVE...

**IT'S RAGNAR!**

I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM ALIVE!



ONCE HE HELD MY LIFE IN HIS HANDS! NOW IT IS **I** WHO WILL DECIDE RAGNAR'S FATE!



**T**HAT NIGHT ON A SANDY SHORE...

NO, MORGANA.

SO THAT IS YOUR VENGEANCE ON RAGNAR-- TO MAKE HIM YOUR CHAINED SLAVE!

I WILL SELL HIM TO AELLA AS A SLAVE. I SHOULD GET A FINE PRICE FOR THE MAN WHO ONCE **RAIDED NORTH-UMBRIA!**



WHAT PRICE WILL YOU ASK?

THAT AELLA **RELEASE** YOU FROM YOUR PROMISE TO MARRY HIM SO THAT YOU WILL BE FREE TO WED **ANOTHER!**





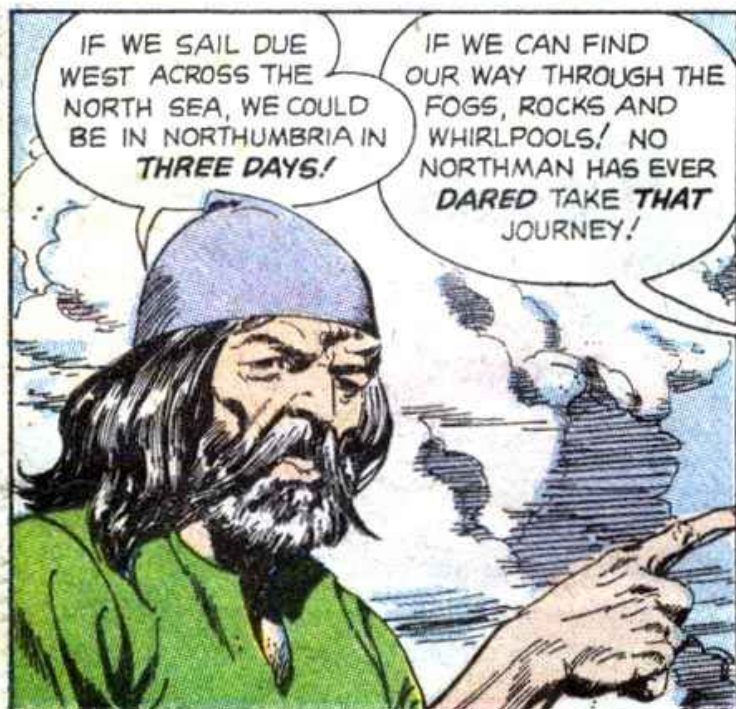


ERIC--  
HIGH-BORN  
OR LOW, I WOULD  
BE **PROUD** TO  
BE YOUR  
WIFE!



**NEXT MORNING...**  
DOVER IS THE ONLY PLACE  
WHERE A BOAT THIS SMALL CAN  
CROSS TO ENGLAND! THE JOURNEY  
DOWN THE COAST WOULD TAKE  
US TWENTY DAYS!

NO, ERIC!  
THERE IS  
ANOTHER  
WAY!



IF WE SAIL DUE  
WEST ACROSS THE  
NORTH SEA, WE COULD  
BE IN NORTHUMBRIA IN  
**THREE DAYS!**

IF WE CAN FIND  
OUR WAY THROUGH THE  
FOGS, ROCKS AND  
WHIRLPOOLS! NO  
NORTHMAN HAS EVER  
**DARED TAKE THAT**  
JOURNEY!



BUT NO DANGER IS  
AS GREAT AS EINAR'S  
FLEET! **UP SAIL!!** WE  
HEAD DUE WEST!

**BY ODIN!** NOT  
EVEN I, RAGNAR,  
DARED SPREAD MY  
SAILS ON THE  
NORTH SEA!



**B**UT THE NEXT DAY, THE FUGITIVES ARE CAUGHT  
IN A DEAD CALM...

NOT A BREATH  
OF AIR FOR HOURS.  
AND WITH THE CLOUDS  
HIDING THE SUN, WE  
CAN'T TELL WHICH  
WAY TO ROW.

PERHAPS  
I CAN HELP,  
ERIC!



WHAT IS IT,  
SANDPIPER?

THIS HAS THE  
STRANGE POWER OF  
**POINTING** IN THE  
DIRECTION OF THE  
**NORTH STAR!**





THE WEST LIES **THAT** WAY! SET YOUR COURSE, ERIC!

BY ODIN! IF I HAD SUCH A MAGIC FISH TO KEEP ME ON COURSE, I COULD HAVE RAIDED ENGLAND ACROSS THIS VERY SEA.



THE JOURNEY WOULD TAKE BUT A FORTNIGHT. I COULD LOAD MY SHIP WITH WARRIORS INSTEAD OF STORES AND COMB UP THE RICHES FROM THE **WHOLE COUNTRY!**

AYE. WITH A LITTLE MAGIC FISH, YOU COULD BE **KING OF ENGLAND** INSTEAD OF MY PRISONER!

AND SANDPIPER'S CRUDE COMPASS GUIDES THEM ACROSS THE SEA...



**LAND!** THIS IS THE NORTHUMBRIAN COAST! UP THAT RIVER MOUTH IS THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK AND THE PALACE OF AELLA, THE KING.

THEN WE MOVE UP-STREAM AT ONCE.



NORTHUMBRIA, HA! I **RAIDED** IT BUT TWENTY ODD YEARS AGO!

I HOPE AELLA AND HIS PEOPLE **REMEMBER** YOUR CONQUESTS, TOO!

AT THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK...



BERTHA, GO TO AELLA AND TELL HIM THAT HIS BRIDE HAS ARRIVED!

YES, ERIC.

THE NEXT DAY, THE FUGITIVES ARE SUMMONED TO THE ROYAL COURT...



I AM AELLA, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA. WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

I AM ERIC THE DANE. I HAVE BROUGHT TWO CAPTIVES WITH ME--YOUR BETROTHED, MORGANA, AND RAGNAR, YOUR COUNTRY'S WORST ENEMY!





I ASK A BARGAIN!  
WILL YOU TRADE ME  
YOUR CLAIM ON  
MORGANA FOR  
MY CLAIM ON  
RAGNAR?

WHAT? RENOUNCE  
MY BETROTHAL!



AS KING, I  
COULD **REFUSE**  
YOUR OFFER  
AND--

ERIC WOULD TAKE  
ME ANYWAY--AND I WOULD  
GO WILLINGLY!



THESE CURSED PIRATES  
HAVE ALREADY STOLEN MY  
BRIDE'S **DOWRY**. NOW, THEY  
WANT TO STEAL **MY BRIDE**!

SOFTLY, AELLA.  
NOW THAT YOU'VE  
COUNTED YOUR  
LOSSES, LET US  
DISCUSS YOUR  
**GAINS**!



VENGEANCE ON RAGNAR HAS BEEN THE  
WATCHCRY OF ALL EUROPE. DESTROY HIM  
AND YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN SONG  
AND STORY. WHAT'S A BROKEN BETROTHAL  
TO THAT?

YOU  
SPEAK  
WISELY,  
GODWIN!



ERIC, I HAVE RECONSIDERED.  
I HEREBY RENOUNCE MY  
BETROTHAL TO MORGANA AND  
RELEASE HER FROM HER VOWS.

AND I IN TURN  
RELEASE RAGNAR  
INTO **YOUR HANDS**!



AND NOW, LET  
US DISCUSS THE  
MANNER OF RAGNAR'S  
EXECUTION...

OH, KING-- RAGNAR  
IS A VIKING, BORN TO  
BATTLE. SO LET HIM  
DIE FIGHTING HIS  
GREATEST FOE,  
**THE SEA**!





SOON AFTERWARD, AT THE RIVERBANK...



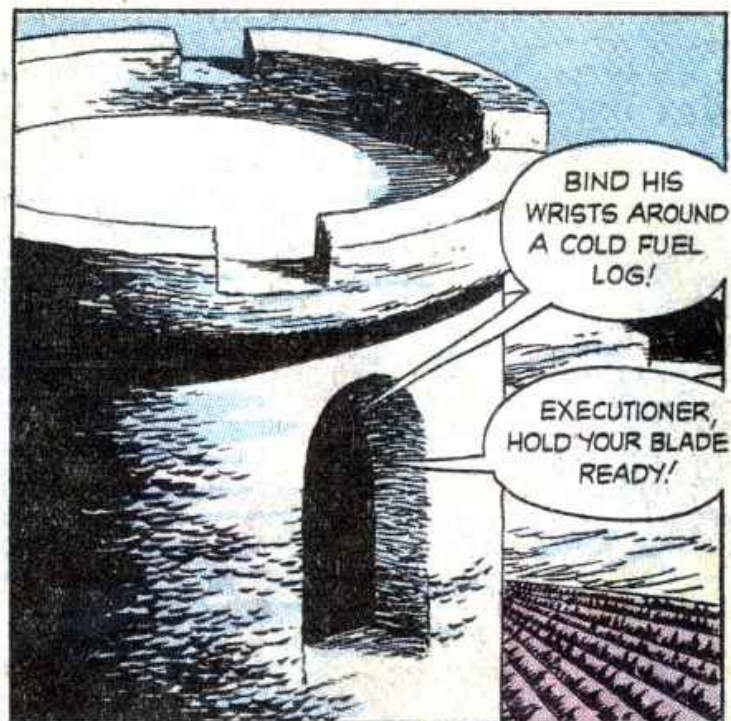
LATER, BACK IN THE KING'S HALL...















**MONTHS LATER**, AS THE VIKING SHIP "SEA-HORSE" IS TRAPPED IN A MIST OFF THE LOWLAND...







IT IS I, **ERIC, THE DANE!** CAN I COME ABOARD WITH MY WITCH WOMAN, KITTI?

AYE! **BRING HER ABOARD!** LUCKY THE SHIP THAT HAS A WOMAN LIKE KITTI TO READ THE WEATHER SIGNS!



WILL YOU LET ME COME AND GO IN PEACE, SIGURD?

I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL, ERIC. WE NORSEMEN PUT NO PRICE ON YOUR HEAD. THE QUARREL LIES BETWEEN YOU AND EINAR. --HE WANTS IT THAT WAY!



BY ODIN, HOW DID YOU LOSE YOUR HAND, ERIC?

THAT'S A LONG STORY. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO TALK ABOUT NOW! I WANT TO MAKE YOU A WAGER!



SIGURD, YOU ARE A SKILLED CAPTAIN. COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE TO FIND THE **NEAREST** POINT OF LAND?

THERE'S A RIVER'S MOUTH ABOUT A LEAGUE DUE SOUTH! BUT **NO MAN** COULD POINT IT OUT IN THIS FOG!



I'LL WAGER YOU A CASK OF ALE THAT KITTI CAN **FIND** THE RIVER'S MOUTH!

**IN THIS FOG?** I'LL TAKE THAT WAGER, ERIC!



HAVE YOUR MEN TAKE TO THE OARS. KITTI NEEDS BUT A MOMENT TO SET UP HER TENT!

**OUT OARS!** GET THE SHIP UNDER WAY!



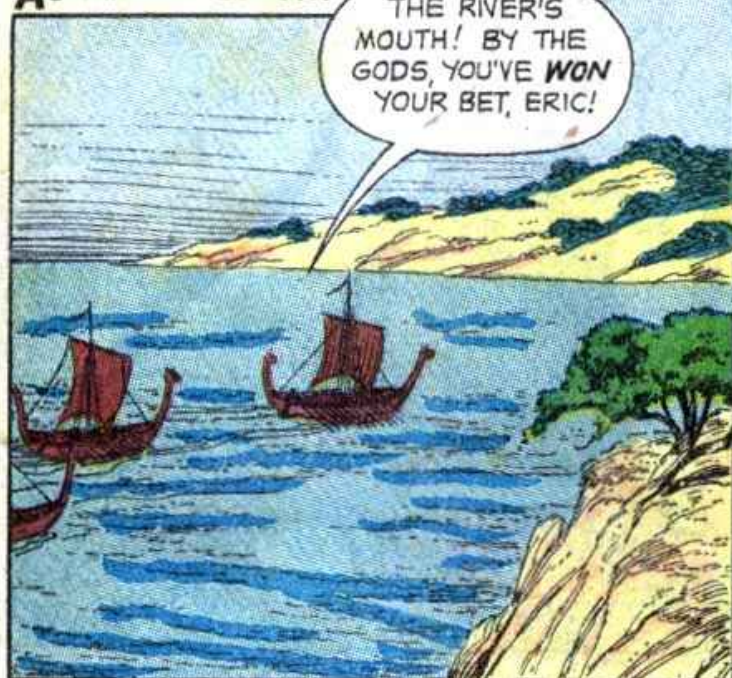
AS THE DRAGON SHIP MOVES OUT INTO THE MIST THE VIKINGS WATCH A STRANGE THING...



AS THEY PASS OTHER DRAGON SHIPS CAUGHT IN THE FOG...



AS THE FOG LIFTS...



AS THE WORD SPREADS THROUGH THE VIKING FLEET...



AS THE FOEMEN STAND FACE TO FACE...







I HAVE HEARD GREAT MARVELS OF YOUR KITTI. WHAT WILL YOU CHARGE TO GUIDE OUR FLEET TO THE GATES OF HERCULES?

FOR MAGIC SUCH AS HERS, I SHOULD RECEIVE AN **EQUAL SHARE** IN THE **SPOILS!**



WHY NOT? IF WE CAN SAIL BY CROW-FLIGHT, WITHOUT LANDMARKS, WE CAN GO **TWICE** AS FAR AND REAP **FOUR TIMES** THE HARVEST!

THEN IT IS AGREED! ERIC BECOMES **PILOT** OF THE FLEET!



HAVE YOU HEARD OF RAGNAR, MY FATHER? HE WAS HUNTING YOU WHEN HE VANISHED. THERE IS TALK THAT HE IS IN IRELAND, AND OTHER TALK THAT HE IS DEAD.

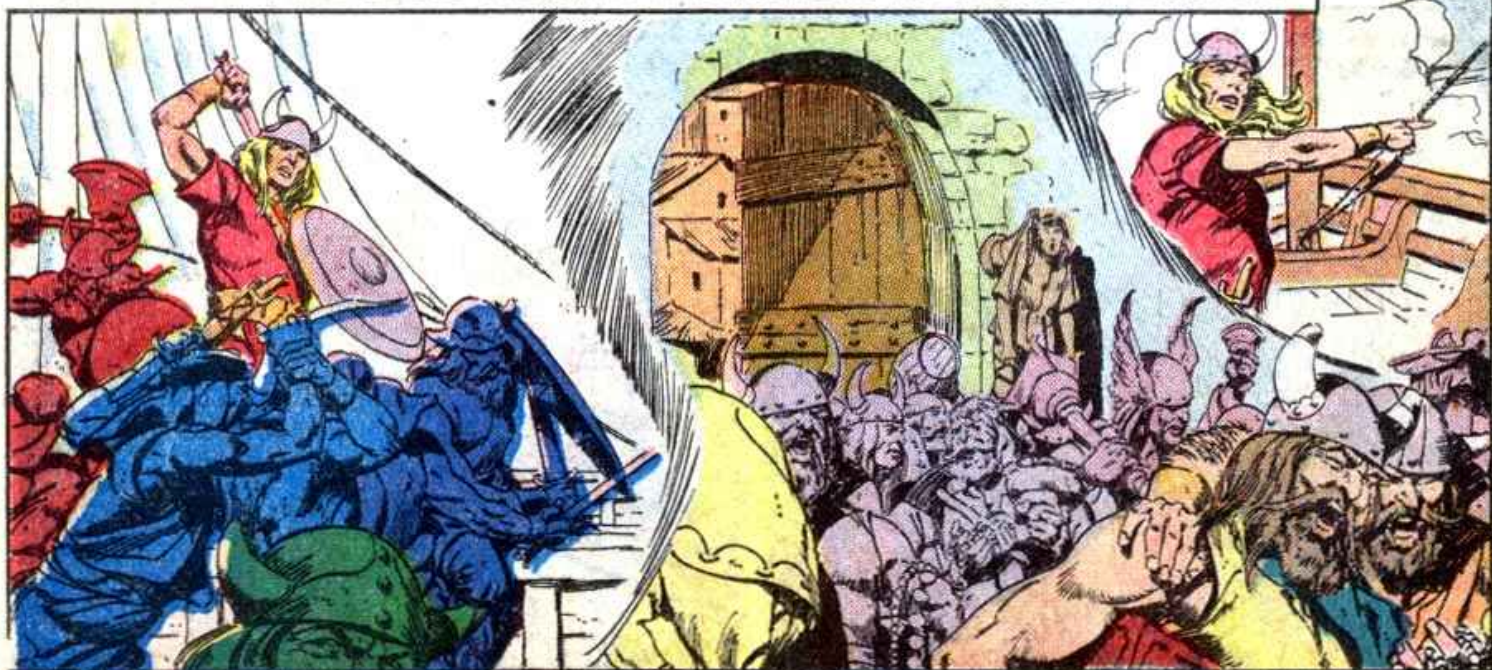
WITH SO MANY **RUMORS** IT'S HARD TO KNOW **WHAT** TO BELIEVE!



IF MY FATHER IS DEAD, THEN **YOU** KILLED HIM!

THE **MIGHTY RAGNAR** KILLED BY A **FORMER SLAVE?** BETTER NOT SAY THAT BEFORE YOUR MEN OR THEY'LL BIND YOU FOR A **MADMAN!**

THAT SUMMER, ERIC GUIDES THE VIKING RAIDERS ALONG THE SHORES OF EUROPE...





THEN, ONE DAY...

I'VE JUST QUESTIONED SOME ENGLISH CAPTIVES. THEY TELL ME THAT RAGNAR MET HIS END AT **AELLA'S COURT**--IN A PIT OF SERPENTS.

A **TERRIBLE VENGEANCE**--BUT THE NORTHUMBRIANS ALWAYS HATED RAGNAR FOR RAVAGING THEIR LAND!



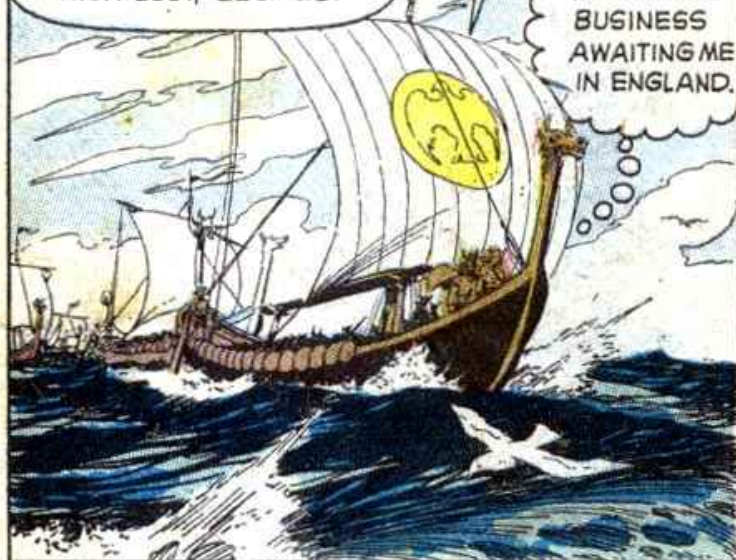
IT'S A GOOD STORY, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE OUR NEXT STEP?

GO TO ENGLAND! YOU'RE SURE TO GET YOUR ANSWER THERE!



TRUE. IN ENGLAND I WOULD LEARN THE TRUTH OF MY FATHER'S FATE--AND PERHAPS GATHER UP SOME RICH LOOT, BESIDES.

I, TOO, HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS AWAITING ME IN ENGLAND.



THE NEXT SPRING, THE HUGE VIKING FLEET SETS SAIL FOR ENGLAND...

IT TOOK A LONG TIME, KITTI--BUT AT LAST I HAVE THE SHIPS AND MEN. AND NOW I CAN RETURN TO **RESCUE MORGANA!**

THINGS GO **TOO WELL** FOR US, ERIC. I'M AFRAID OF MISFORTUNE!



AND WHAT OF MY **TALISMAN**? WILL IT NOT PROTECT ME, KITTI?

IF I COULD READ ITS SECRET, I COULD TELL WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR YOU.



THE FUTURE HOLDS GREAT THINGS FOR ALL OF US--IF WE SHOW COURAGE!

YES. IT IS NOT FOR NOTHING THAT ALAN THE BARD LEFT AELLA'S COURT TO FOLLOW ERIC GYRFALCON.





THREE DAYS LATER, THE VIKINGS SWARM ASHORE IN ENGLAND...



I RIDE SOUTH WITH OUR MAIN ARMY TO CUT OFF ENGLISH REINFORCEMENTS. ERIC, YOU WILL TAKE TEN SHIPS AND FIVE THOUSAND MEN AND MARCH TO YORK.

AYE, EINAR! IT'S A GOOD PLAN!

WITH FIRE AND SWORD, ERIC AND HIS MEN FIGHT THEIR WAY UPSTREAM TOWARD THE ROYAL CITY OF YORK...



BY TONIGHT I WILL BE OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF AELLA'S CITY! BUT WHAT IF MORGANA IS **NOT THERE?**

MY EYES GROW OLD. THEY SMART IN ALL THIS SMOKE AND FLAME. I CANNOT READ THE FUTURE.

THAT AFTERNOON...



A CAPTIVE IN THE LIVERY OF THE KING'S GUARD. AELLA MUST BE SOMEWHERE CLOSE BY.

WHERE IS AELLA? QUICKLY, **YOUR LIFE** DEPENDS ON THE ANSWER.



AELLA WENT TO LINCOLN TO FETCH MORGANA, WHOM HE HELD THERE AS A CAPTIVE. HE IS RIDING FOR YORK EVEN NOW.

THEN HE MUST CROSS THE RIVER TO GET BACK TO HIS ROYAL CITY. WE WILL **AWAIT** HIM.

THAT NIGHT, ERIC SETS A TRAP AT THE RIVER CROSSING NEAR YORK...



LOOK **THERE!** A SKIFF SLIPPING ACROSS THE RIVER! QUICKLY! CUT THEM OFF!



IT'S AELLA! HE'S GOING TO SWIM FOR IT!

THE SKIFF IS TURNING OVER! **MORGANA!**





AELLA MUST NOT ESCAPE HIS FATE! TIE HIM UP!



MORGANA! LET ME HELP YOU!

LEAVE ME ALONE. GET YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM ME!



MORGANA, BUT YOU SAID YOU **WANTED** ME TO COME BACK FOR YOU!

DID YOU HAVE TO COME THIS WAY--WITH AN ARMY OF PIRATES, BURNING AND KILLING? NO, I'LL HAVE **NONE** OF YOU, ERIC, THE DANE.



LATER, AT THE VIKING CAMP...

BAH! YOU WOULDN'T HAVE CAUGHT ME IF NOT FOR THAT CURSED SWORD. I COULDN'T LOOSE IT FROM THE SCABBARD!

IT'S A GOOD TOLEDO BLADE, EVEN THOUGH IT HAS A WOODEN POMMEL!



THAT SWORD IS CALLED **AVENGER**! IT BELONGED TO THE OLD ROYAL HOUSE OF NORTHUMBRIA. THE WHOLE ROYAL FAMILY WAS WIPED OUT WHEN RAGNAR RAIDED THE LAND.

AND AELLA **STOLE** THE SWORD WHEN HE STOLE THE THRONE!



THAT THRONE IS YOURS NOW, ERIC, IF YOU WANT IT. I WILL WILLINGLY SERVE YOU AS A VASSAL IF YOU LET ME **LIVE**!

YOU FORGET AELLA, I STILL OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT FOR THE **LOSS** OF MY HAND!





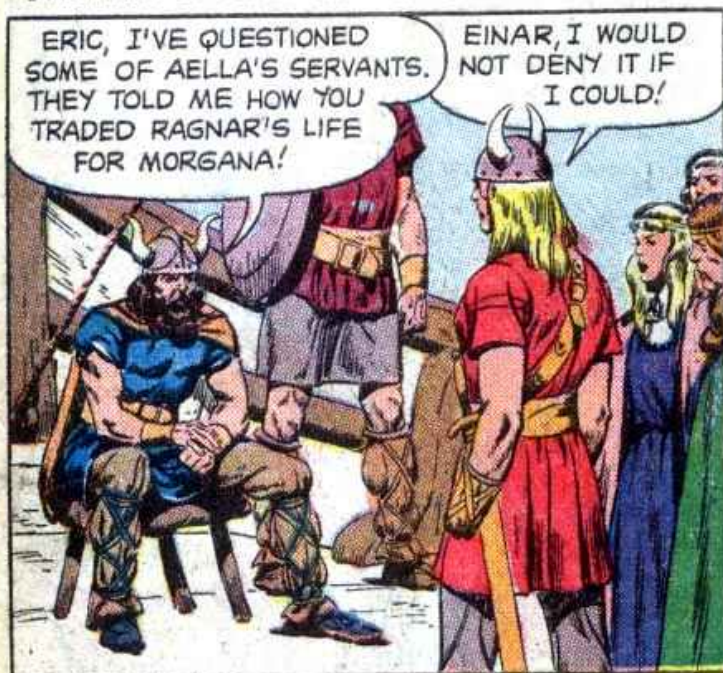




ERIC, TAKE YOUR PRIZE. AVENGER IS YOURS-- BUT THE WOODEN POMMEL IS BROKEN!

KITTI WILL CARVE ME ANOTHER OUT OF **IVORY!** IT DOES NOT MATTER. **NOTHING** MATTERS!

THE NEXT DAY ERIC CONFRONTS HIS OLD FOEMAN...



ERIC, I'VE QUESTIONED SOME OF AELLA'S SERVANTS. THEY TOLD ME HOW YOU TRADED RAGNAR'S LIFE FOR MORGANA!

EINAR, I WOULD NOT DENY IT IF I COULD!

JUST THEN, A MESSENGER ARRIVES...

IMPORTANT NEWS, ERIC! **KING** EINAR DEFEATED THE ENGLISH ARMY. HE IS ON HIS WAY TO YORK. YOU ARE TO AWAIT HIM ABOARD YOUR SHIP!

**KING** EINAR? SO HE HAS **ALREADY** PROCLAIMED HIMSELF RULER! I DON'T LIKE IT!



I WILL NOT HARM MORGANA OR THE OTHERS WHO FLED WITH YOU FROM THE NORTHLAND-- BUT YOU WILL PAY THE DEATH PRICE--AS SOON AS I DECIDE HOW I WILL TAKE YOUR LIFE!

ERIC--I'VE GOT TO HELP YOU!



AS THE DRAGON SHIPS MAKE FOR THE COAST...



EINAR, MY SISTER'S SON, KUOLA, WILL GUIDE YOUR SHIP DOWN THE RIVER. HAVE I YOUR PERMISSION TO SING THE DEATH SONG OF MY PEOPLE FOR ERIC?

YES, KITTI, AND MAY ERIC ENJOY THE TUNE!

BUT ERIC UNDERSTANDS THE STRANGE LAPLAND TONGUE OF HIS FOSTER MOTHER...

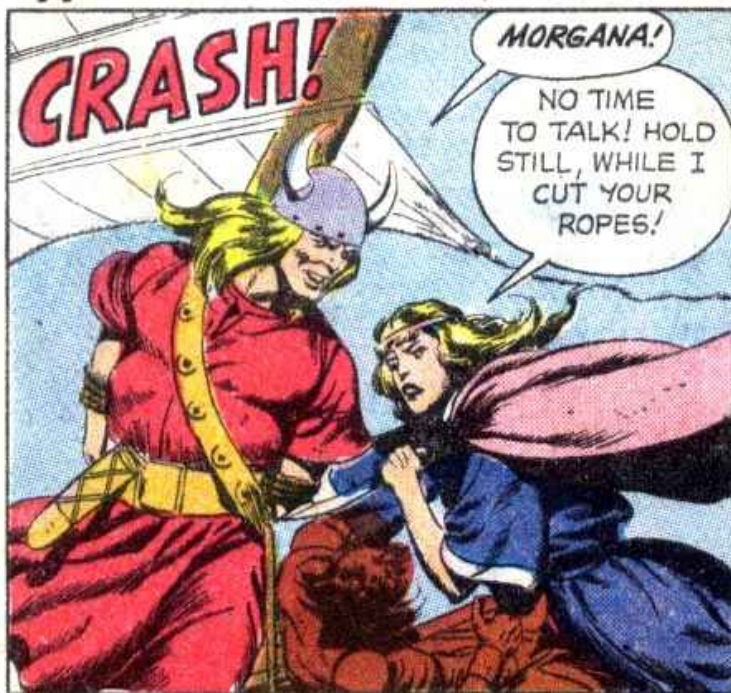
**AY! AY!** KUOLA WILL GUIDE THE SHIP ONTO THE RIVER ROCKS. ♪ YOUR BONDS WILL BE CUT AS WE STRIKE! ♪

AND I WILL BE READY!





AN INSTANT LATER, THE SHIP STRIKES...







NO, ERIC. THE POMMEL HANGS HERE AT YOUR THROAT! THE **TALISMAN** YOU WORE WHEN THEY BROUGHT YOU TO ME AS A BABE!



GREAT GODS, I REMEMBER THE STORY NOW. IT WAS RUMORED THAT ONLY ONE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ESCAPED FROM RAGNAR'S VIKINGS--A NEWBORN PRINCELING, HEIR TO THE THRONE!

AND YOU ARE **THAT PRINCE**, ERIC--THE **RIGHTFUL** KING OF NORTHUMBRIA!



**HURRAH** FOR ERIC! WE CHOOSE ERIC GYRFALCON FOR OUR KING!



SINCE YOU CHOOSE ME FREELY I WILL TAKE THE THRONE, BUT **ONLY** IF MORGANA WILL SIT BESIDE ME AS **QUEEN OF ENGLAND**!



NO, ERIC. I WILL NOT RULE A KINGDOM WON BY **FIRE AND SWORD**!

I FOUGHT TOO HARD FOR YOU TO GIVE YOU UP NOW, MORGANA. MY VIKING BROTHERS WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE ANOTHER KING!



BROTHERS, I AND MORGANA SAIL WESTWARD TO FIND A LAND OF PEACE--THE ISLE OF AVALON. WHO WILL GO WITH US?

I WILL!

AND I!

AND I!



LONG YEARS LATER, IN THE HALL OF A GREAT CASTLE, AN OLD MINSTREL FINISHES HIS SONG...



"THEY SAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF AVALON WERE OF A REDDISH COLOR. KITTI THOUGHT THEY WERE DISTANT COUSINS OF HER TRIBE..."



"IT IS SAID THAT ERIC FOUND THE FABLED LAND AT LAST, FAR TO THE WEST!"



"IT WAS A LAND OF PEACE AND PLENTY, SWARMING WITH WONDROUS CREATURES..."





# A MYSTERY IN STONE

IN 1898, A MINNESOTA FARMER FOUND A STONE WHOSE FACE WAS CARVED WITH RUNES--- LETTERS IN THE NORSE TONGUE. THE RUNES TOLD A STRANGE STORY.



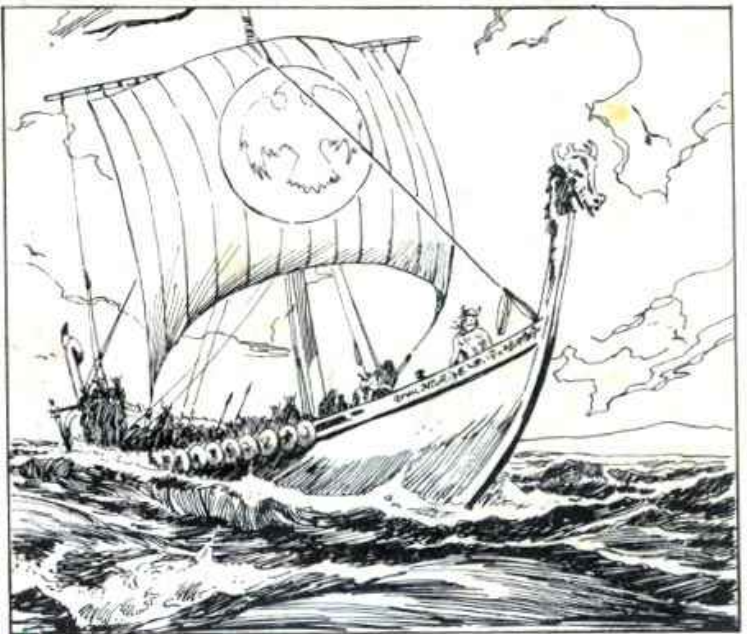
THE VIKINGS HAD LEFT TEN MEN TO GUARD THEIR BOAT AND PLUNGED INTO THE WILDERNESS.



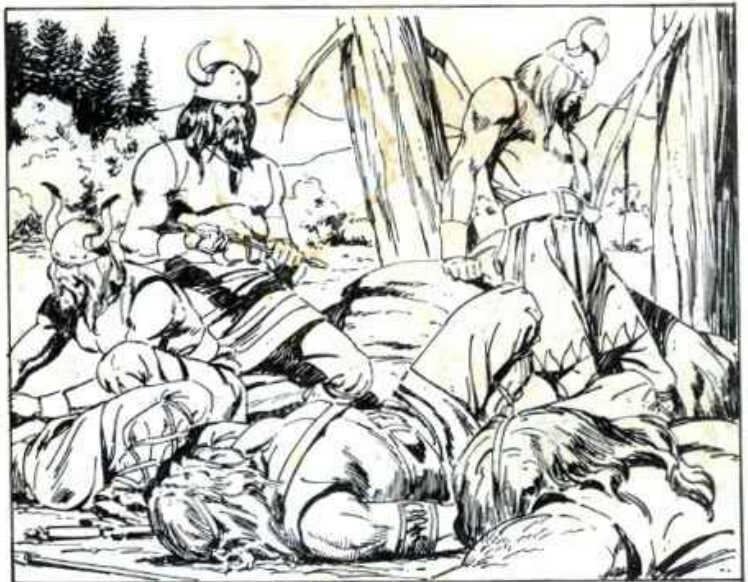
HERE THE TALE ENDS JUST AS THE WRITER CARVED IT IN STONE. THE REST OF THE STORY REMAINS A SECRET, PERHAPS FOREVER.



THE CARVINGS TOLD OF A PARTY OF NORSEMEN ON AN EXPLORATION JOURNEY FROM VINLAND TO THE WEST.



WEEKS LATER THE EXPLORERS CAME TO A LARGE LAKE. SOME OF THEM HAD GONE FISHING. WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY FOUND THEIR COMPANIONS SLAIN.



IS THE STONE GENUINE? FOR GENERATIONS SCIENTISTS HAVE ARGUED. DID THE VIKINGS EXPLORE AMERICA CENTURIES BEFORE COLUMBUS? IS AMERICA THE FABLED LAND OF AVALON?





# VIKING CONQUESTS

THE VIKING AGE BEGAN EARLY IN THE NINTH CENTURY WHEN THE NORSE AND THEIR DRAGON SHIPS CROSSED THE SEAS TO CONQUER IRELAND.



THE VIKINGS SWARMED OVER GERMANY AND THE LOWLANDS. BY 885 THEY WERE BESIEGING PARIS. ONLY A LARGE RANSOM SAVED THE CITY.



BUT THE NORSE WERE MORE THAN PIRATES. BY THE 10TH CENTURY THEY HAD COLONIZED RUSSIA, AND WERE TRADING FURS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.



IN 865 A GREAT VIKING FLEET INVADED ENGLAND WITH FIRE AND SWORD. ONLY ALFRED THE GREAT KEPT THEM FROM CONQUERING THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.



THE DRAGON SHIPS SAILED SOUTHWARD TO SPAIN AND ITALY. THEY FOUGHT THE ARABS FOR CONTROL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.



A PLEDGE **DELL** COMIC TO PARENTS

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